

Library News

Make tracks to the library

Ever since Daisy moved from the back seat of the "bicycle built for two" to take charge of her own machine, female feet have peddled enthusiastically in her tire tracks.

If we back-peddle a bit into history, via one of our library books called *Cycle Con* (by Ray Hallett), we find that ladies first took to the road on two-wheelers in the 1890s. On their early boneshakers, they had to contend with the constrictions of corsets and ankle-length skirts on a ride. When some of the bolder cyclists slipped into baggy bloomers that reached well below the knee, many people thought them to be indecent.

Over the years, clothes and bicycles have undergone a metamorphoses and the gal with boneshaker and bloomers has emerged on today's roads in a liberated surge of spandex pants and 21-gear Derailleur. The one thing that hasn't changed is her enthusiasm for the sport.

Enthusiasm for cycling in the keynote of a group of Whitchurch-Stouffville women who wryly call themselves *The Rawhides*. They love to go day-touring and as soon as winter backs out of Town, their wheels are in motion.

Members of *The Rawhides* will be at the library on Friday, May 6 at 2 p.m. to share their enthusiasm and the expertise they have gathered over many miles of bicycle travel. If you are interested in bicycle touring, this informal

introduction will provide the encouragement and advice you need to get your wheels in gear. It will include information on bicycles, equipment and planning a day trip. The library has several support books on bicycle mechanics and maintenance. Consumer Reports are also available for anyone who is in the market for a new machine. If you are already revved up to hit the road, we have books that can help you plan a route: *The Great Toronto Bicy-*

cling Guide, *The Bicycle Guide to Southwestern Ontario*, *The American Biking Atlas and Touring Guide*.

In town, bicycles emerging from their winter recesses are the first cheerleaders of spring (closely challenged, this year, by rollerblades) as they energize the school yards and wheelie through the park. It's hard to believe that only 80-odd years ago the bicycle was the fastest vehicle on the roads.

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